



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA ADVISORY

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SEVERAL CENTRAL MARYLAND FAMILIES TO BE HONORED DURING ADOPTION RECOGNITION EVENT

BALTIMORE – November is National Adoption Awareness month adoptive families across Maryland will be honored at an event to be held at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore on Saturday, November 22, 2008.

“Many of these families have added two or more children to their family,” said Brenda Donald, Secretary of the Department of Human Resources. “We are thankful to them for opening their homes to our children, and want to take this opportunity to help bring attention to the joys of growing families in this manner.”

Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties, Maryland’s larger counties, have each nominated a family of the year to be honored at the celebration. The exception is Baltimore City which has ten family nominations. Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Montgomery counties exceeded their adoption goals for fiscal year 2008. Baltimore City increased their number of finalized adoption from for fiscal year 2008 to 297 from the 247 finalized in fiscal year 2007. These central Maryland counties finalized 394 adoptions this fiscal year.

Anne Arundel County nominated Lori Frommelt as their adoptive parent of the year. Ms. Frommelt, a single parent, has served as a foster parent since January of 2001. She has adopted two children that she initially served as a foster parent, after her biological son joined the Naval Academy.

Among the ten families being honored by Baltimore City DSS are James McKelvin, Lorna Ajala, and B-nai and Juan Johnson. Mr. McKelvin is a single parent who adopted two brothers ages 8 and 5. Ms. Ajala has also adopted a sibling group of two. Both girls were born drug addicted and subsequently have special needs. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson adopted a little girl who was just starting kindergarten when she was placed with them.

“Each of our adoptive families is special and the children they adopt are fortunate to be a part of their families,” Donald said. “All total, 617 adoptions were finalized this year, with 19 of our 24 counties meeting or exceeding their adoption goals. We are happy to have had this increase in adoptions, but also recognize that each of the 617 total adoptions represent a positive change in the individual life of a child.”

- Martin O’Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary

There were 563 children adopted across Maryland in fiscal year 2007.

Members of the media are asked to contact the Department of Human Resources for additional information on adoption activities in counties across the state.

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider serving 500,000 people in need each year. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children and temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also provides programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is the fourth largest state agency.

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